

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node comprising ~~the steps of~~ :
receiving registration information;
executing a self-selection method on an apparatus self-selecting a home agent in response to receiving the registration information, the self-selection method enabling the apparatus to select itself as a home agent; and
responding to the registration information in response to performing the self-selecting.
2. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information is RFC 3422 compliant information.
3. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information comprises timestamp information.
4. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information comprises network access identifier information.
5. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information comprises mobile address information.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ~~step of self-selecting~~ self-selection method comprises performing a perfect hashing algorithm.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ~~step of self-selecting~~ self-selection method comprises performing a round robin algorithm.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ~~step of self-selecting~~ self-selection method comprises performing a Pearson algorithm.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, the ~~step of self-selecting~~ self-selection method further comprising the ~~steps of~~ :

generating a value;

determining that the value is within a range of numbers; and

~~performing the step of~~ responding to the registration information in response to determining

that the value is within the range of numbers.

10. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein load balancing is performed in response to performing the method of registering a mobile node.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, the step of ~~self-selecting~~ self-selection method further comprising ~~the steps of~~ :

generating a value that falls within a range of numbers;

comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers; and

if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers ~~performing the step of~~ responding to the registration information.

12. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 11, wherein the value is randomly generated.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node comprising ~~the steps of~~ :
receiving registration information at a home agent;
generating a value that falls within a range of numbers in response to receiving the registration information;
comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value;
and
if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, responding to the registration information.
14. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 13, wherein the predefined range of numbers is a bin.
15. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 13, wherein the value is randomly generated.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node comprising ~~the steps of~~ :
receiving registration information at a home agent;
identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request in response to receiving the registration information;
generating a value in response to identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request;
comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value;
and
if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, responding to the registration information.

17. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein the predefined range of numbers is a secondary bin.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein ~~the step of~~ identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to checking a retransmission bit field.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein ~~the step of~~ identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to determining time elapsed from an initial registration attempt.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein ~~the step of~~ identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to identifying a number of registration attempts.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
an input interface configured means for receiving registration information;
a processing unit configured means for self-selecting the apparatus as a home agent in response to receiving the registration information[[:]] and means for responding to the registration information in response to performing the self-selecting.
22. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a home agent.
23. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a wireless device.
24. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a wireline device.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an input interface configured means for receiving registration information at a home agent;

and

a processor configured to:

~~means for identifying~~ identify the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request in response to receiving the registration information;

~~means for generating~~ generate a value in response to identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request;

~~means for comparing~~ compare the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value; and

if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, ~~means for responding~~ respond to the registration information.

26. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein the apparatus is a wireless device.

27. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein the apparatus is a wireline device.

28. (New) A method of registering a mobile node comprising:
- receiving registration information at a home agent;
 - identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request in response to receiving the registration information, wherein identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to at least a one of checking a retransmission bit field, determining time elapsed from an initial registration attempt and identifying a number of registration attempts;
 - generating a value in response to identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request;
 - comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value;
- and
- if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, responding to the registration information.